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10/520,767	02/09/2005	Josef Laumen	112740-1048	2866
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BELI., BOYD & LLOYD, LLP			EXAMINER	
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CHICAGO, IL 60690				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/520,767

Applicant(s)

LAUMEN ET AL.

Examiner

ASHOK B. PATEL

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02/27/08.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-38 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 39-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-62 are subject to examination. Claims 1-38 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 39-42, 44-52 and 54-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fenton et al. (hereinafter Fenton)(US 2003/0193967 A1)

Referring to claim 39,

Fenton teaches a method for transmission of messages, comprising:

transmitting a message from a first message service provider to a second message service provider (Figs. 10 and 11), and

evaluating the message at the second message service provider (para. [0099]),

wherein the message contains at least a first header field which includes a reference to at least one network element of the first message service provider

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which was involved in processing the message (para. [0018], [0033], [0034], [0070], [0071], [0099], [0117], [0118]).

Referring to claim 40,

Fenton teaches a method in accordance with Claim 39, further comprising transmitting the message from the second message service provider to a network element outside a service environment with the message containing at least a second header field which features a reference to at least one network element of the second message service provider which was involved in the processing of the message (para. [0018], [0033], [0034], [0070], [0071], [0099], [0117], [0118]).

Referring to claim 41,

Fenton teaches a method in accordance with Claim 40, wherein the message, on transmission from the second message service provider to the network element outside a service environment contains the first header field which features a reference to at least one network element of the first message service provider which was involved in the processing of the message (para. [0018], [0033], [0034], [0070], [0071], [0099], [0117], [0118]).

Referring to claim 42,

Fenton teaches a method in accordance with Claim 40, further comprising transmitting the message from the network element outside the service environment back via the second message service provider to the first message service provider, with the reference(s) set from the first and/or second header

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field being resolved in each return transmission step (para. [0018], [0033], [0034], [0070], [0071], [0099], [0117], [0118]).

Referring to claim 44,

Fenton teaches a method in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the transmitted message is evaluated after arrival at the second message service provider from a switching node (para. [0018], [0033], [0034], [0070], [0071], [0099], [0117], [0118]).

Referring to claim 45,

Fenton teaches a method in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the functionality of the message is evident from at least one header field (para. [0018], [0033], [0034], [0070], [0071], [0099], [0117], [0118], Tables 19-33).

Referring to claim 46,

Fenton teaches a method in accordance with Claim 44, wherein the switching node determines, as a function of a header field, to which network element in the second message service provider the message will be relayed (para. [0018], [0033], [0034], [0070], [0071], [0099], [0117], [0118], Tables 19-33).

Referring to claim 47,

Fenton teaches a method in accordance with Claim 41, wherein a switching node is embodied as a self-contained network element (Fig. 11, element 1004 and 1014).

Referring to claim 48,

Fenton teaches a method in accordance with Claim 41, wherein a switching node is integrated into a relaying means (Fig. 11, element 1004 and 1014).

Referring to claim 49,

Claim 49 is a claim to a system for transmission of messages in accordance with the method of claim 39. Therefore claim 49 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 39.

Referring to claim 50,

Claim 50 is a claim to a system for transmission of messages in accordance with the method of claim 40. Therefore claim 50 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 40.

Referring to claim 51,

Claim 51 is a claim to a system for transmission of messages in accordance with the method of claim 41. Therefore claim 51 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 41.

Referring to claim 52,

Claim 52 is a claim to a system for transmission of messages in accordance with the method of claim 42. Therefore claim 52 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 42.

Referring to claim 54,

Claim 54 is a claim to a system for transmission of messages in accordance with the method of claim 44. Therefore claim 54 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 44.

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Referring to claim 55,

Claim 55 is a claim to a system for transmission of messages in accordance with the method of claim 45. Therefore claim 55 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 45.

Referring to claim 56,

Claim 56 is a claim to a system for transmission of messages in accordance with the method of claim 46. Therefore claim 56 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 46.

Referring to claim 57,

Claim 57 is a claim to a system for transmission of messages in accordance with the method of claim 47. Therefore claim 57 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 47.

Referring to claim 59,

Fenton teaches a system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the system includes a mobile radio terminal (Fig 10, elements 1008, 1006, 1018 and 1016).

Referring to claim 60,

Fenton teaches a method in accordance with Claim 39, further including using a mobile radio terminal (Fig 10, elements 1008, 1006, 1018 and 1016).

Referring to claim 61,

Fenton teaches a system in accordance with Claim 49, wherein the system includes a Transceiver (Fig 10, elements 1008, 1006, 1018 and 1016).

Referring to claim 62,

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Fenton teaches a method in accordance with Claim 39, further including using a Transceiver (Fig 10, elements 1008, 1006, 1018 and 1016).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 43 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being Unpatentable over Fenton et al. (hereinafter Fenton)(US 2003/0193967 A1) in view of in view of RFC 822.

Referring to claim 43,

Keeping in mind the teachings of Fenton in para. [0018], [0033], [0034], [0070], [0071], [0099], [0117], [0118], Fenton teaches the practice of RFC 822 in it's system as indicated in Figs 10 and 11.), Fenton **specifically fails to indicate** the method in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the reference features the specification of a return path.

RFC 822 already teaches at

"4.3.1. RETURN-PATH

This field is added by the final transport system that delivers the message to its recipient. The field is intended to contain definitive information about the address and route back to the message's originator.

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Note: The "Reply-To" field is added by the originator and serves to direct replies, whereas the "Return-Path" field is used to identify a path back to the originator.

While the syntax indicates that a route specification is optional, every attempt should be made to provide that information in this field."

Thus, it would have been recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art that applying the known technique taught by RFC 882 to the MMS Relay/Servers of Fenton would have yielded predictable results and resulted in an improved system, namely, a system that would have a T"RETURN PATH field be added by the final transport system that delivers the message to its recipient, wherein the field is intended to contain definitive information about the address and route back to the message's originator. Moreover, RFC 822 compels that "While the syntax indicates that a route specification is optional, every attempt should be made to provide that information in this field."

Referring to claim 53,

Claim 53 is a claim to a system for transmission of messages in accordance with the method of claim 43. Therefore claim 53 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 43.

Conclusion

Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages

and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan A. Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The

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fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ashok B. Patel/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2154